

Birmingham Development Plan 2031






















Landscape Character Assessment



5 Detailed Local Landscape Character Area Descriptions and Assessment of their Relative Sensitivity to Development

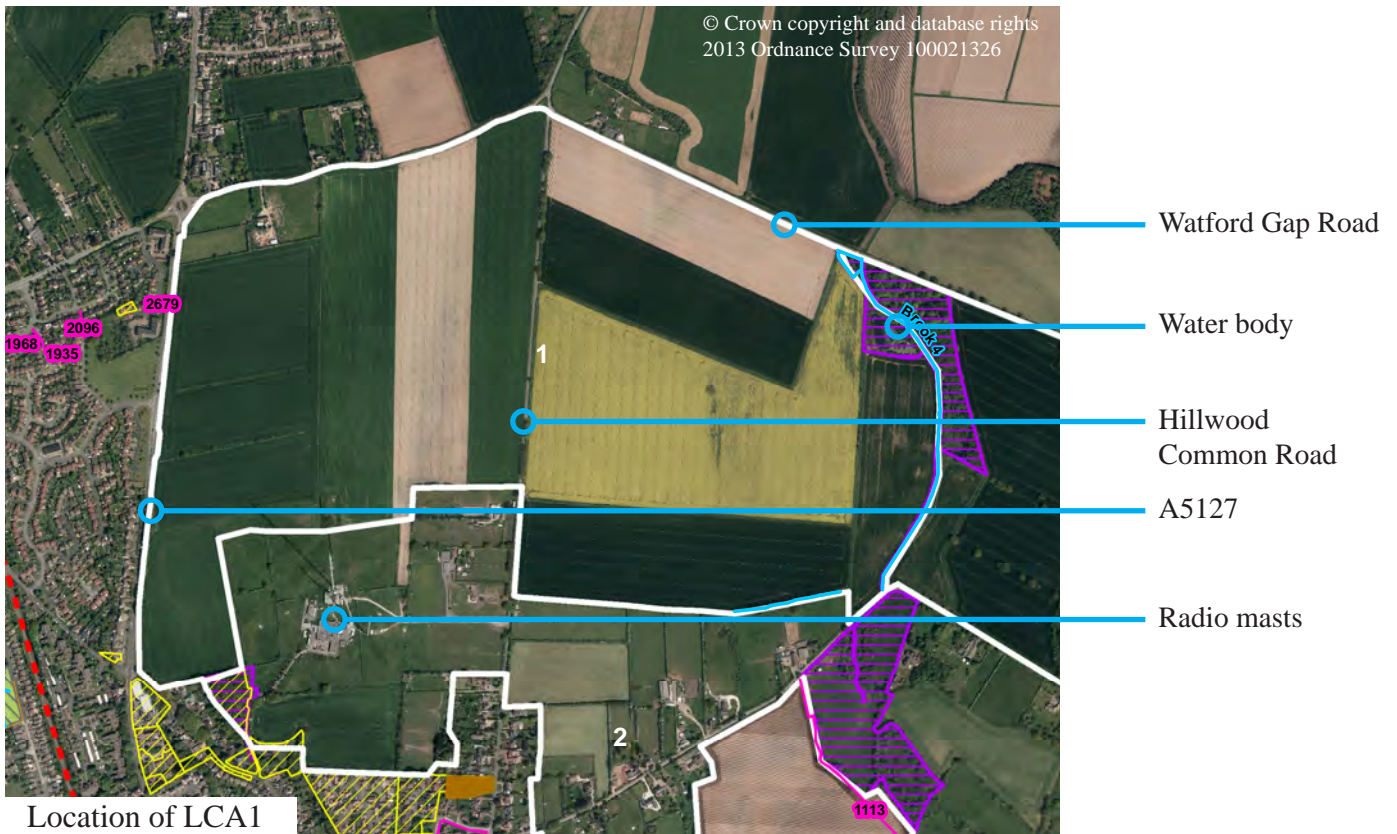
The following pages describe each local landscape character area in detail. The legend opposite can be used to identify the features mapped on the first plan for each area.

Legend

-  Wildlife Corridor
 -  Water Courses
 -  Flood Zone 3
 -  Flood Zone 2
 -  Public Rights Of Way
 -  Ancient Woodland
 -  Tree Preservation Order
 -  Local Nature Reserve
 -  SINC
 -  SLINC
 -  Scheduled Monument
 -  Ridge and Furrow
 -  SHINE
- Statutorily Listed Buildings**
-  I
 -  II
 -  II*
- Locally Listed Buildings**
-  A
 -  B
-  Photograph Location and Direction
 -  Indicative Visibility of the Area
 -  Prominent Views

LCA1: Hillwood Common Rolling Arable Farmland

Landscape Character and Views



The Hillwood Common Rolling Arable Farmland character area (LCA1) lies at the northern limit of the study area. The area is defined on its boundaries by; the Watford Gap Road to the north; the A5127 to the west; adjacent field boundaries and pastoral land use to the south, and; by a natural brook, running south to north along the eastern boundary.

The topography varies across the character area with a distinct change from higher ground in the south, circa 170m AOD, from which the natural contours fall away evenly northwards to lower lying farmland at 120m AOD. The higher ground is marked by a plateau and the areas northern facing aspect offers elevated, distant views.

The landform and aspect combine to convey an elevated sense of remoteness further enhanced by the extensive and panoramic views that are predominantly rural since they are directed away from the built form of the urban periphery.

LCA1 is an exposed landscape due in part to the low hedgerows, few hedgerow trees and the large field parcels in combination with the sloping topography. The area is predominantly arable land use creating open views that are possible from locations along Hillwood Common Road, which bisects the area. There are middle distance and direct views of the radio masts, located outside and just to the south west, from within most of LCA1.

Fragmented field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees are the main ecological assets within this character type and make up one of the few components within this landscape. There are more complete hedgerows along Hillwood Common Road and enclosing the fields in the north west corner of the area, surrounding the farmstead. The network of linear hedgerows defines a large scale field pattern that was generated through the 19th century enclosures, that has been preserved in the existing arable character of this landscape. A small water body in the north east corner of the area also forms one of the areas distinct landscape components.

Key Characteristics

- Large fields with fragmented hedgerows
- Distant views to the north west
- Rolling topography with predominantly north facing slopes

Key Views

- From Hillwood Common Road to the north
- From residential properties on the A5127 towards the west of the area

LCA1: Hillwood Common Rolling Arable Farmland

Landscape Character and Views



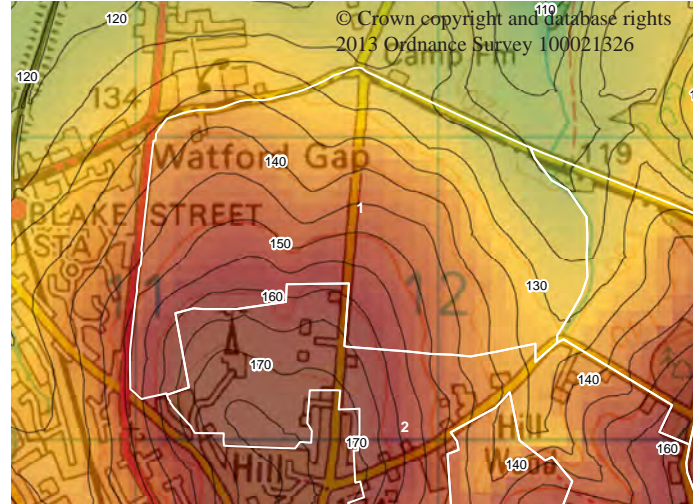
V1.1 Visible radio masts to the south of the area

There is an absence of any built structures, other than the farmstead located in the north west corner off Watford Gap Road. There are no Public Rights of Way that cross LCA1 and Hillwood Common Road forms the only access across this LCA.

Land Use: Land use within this area is wholly arable farmland with one farmstead located in the north west corner.

Pattern: The pattern of the area is derived from the layout of the field boundaries that are characteristic of 19th century enclosures. These fields are rectangular with rectilinear boundaries, generally following the natural gradient of the land.

Transport and Access: The area is bounded on two sides by road corridors. An urban A Road (A5127)



Topography plan

with pavement on one side and street lighting along its length to the west, and a rural lane (Watford Gap Road) to the north. Hillwood Common Road crosses the site linking the urban area to the south with the rural landscape of the north.

Topography: The topography across the character area ranges from 170m in the south to 120m in the north. The aspect of the slopes generally face north to north east, with the exception of several field parcels with east-west axes along the western edge which face due west towards the urban edge.

Vegetation: The area consists of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Hedgerows within the fields are managed but have become fragmented over time. The majority of trees within the area are located along Hillwood Common Road where hedgerows are also more complete. There are also more complete hedgerows enclosing the fields in the north west corner of the area, surrounding the farmstead and earlier, pre-19th Century enclosures.



V1.2 Fragmented hedgerow and distant views along Hillwood Common Road

LCA1: Hillwood Common Rolling Arable Farmland

Landscape Character and Views

Rivers and Drainage: The eastern boundary of the area is defined by a small brook with a small water body that is located to the west of the brook within the north east corner of the character area.

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

- Middle distance views towards the Sutton Coldfield radio transmitter masts which form a key orientation landmark
- Extensive, long distance views to the north west, north and north east from within the LCA across a lower-lying agricultural landscape
- Some views towards the urban area from within the LCA that are limited by virtue of the residential area being located to at a generally lower level and due to localised variations in topography
- Views east into and towards the western edge of the character area from residential properties on the A5127 and Wyndley Close
- The views from properties on Vaughan Close are limited by the hedgerow along the western edge of the character area
- Views from the properties on Hillwood Road are filtered by vegetation and views into the character area from vehicles on the A5127 and Watford Gap Road are determined by existing gaps in the roadside hedgerows



V1.3 Open agricultural landscape with few features



V1.4 Residential properties along the A5127

LCA1: Hillwood Common Rolling Arable Farmland

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be Low. This is due to the presence of other examples of this character type within the wider landscape. The hedgerows are fragmented and in poor condition.

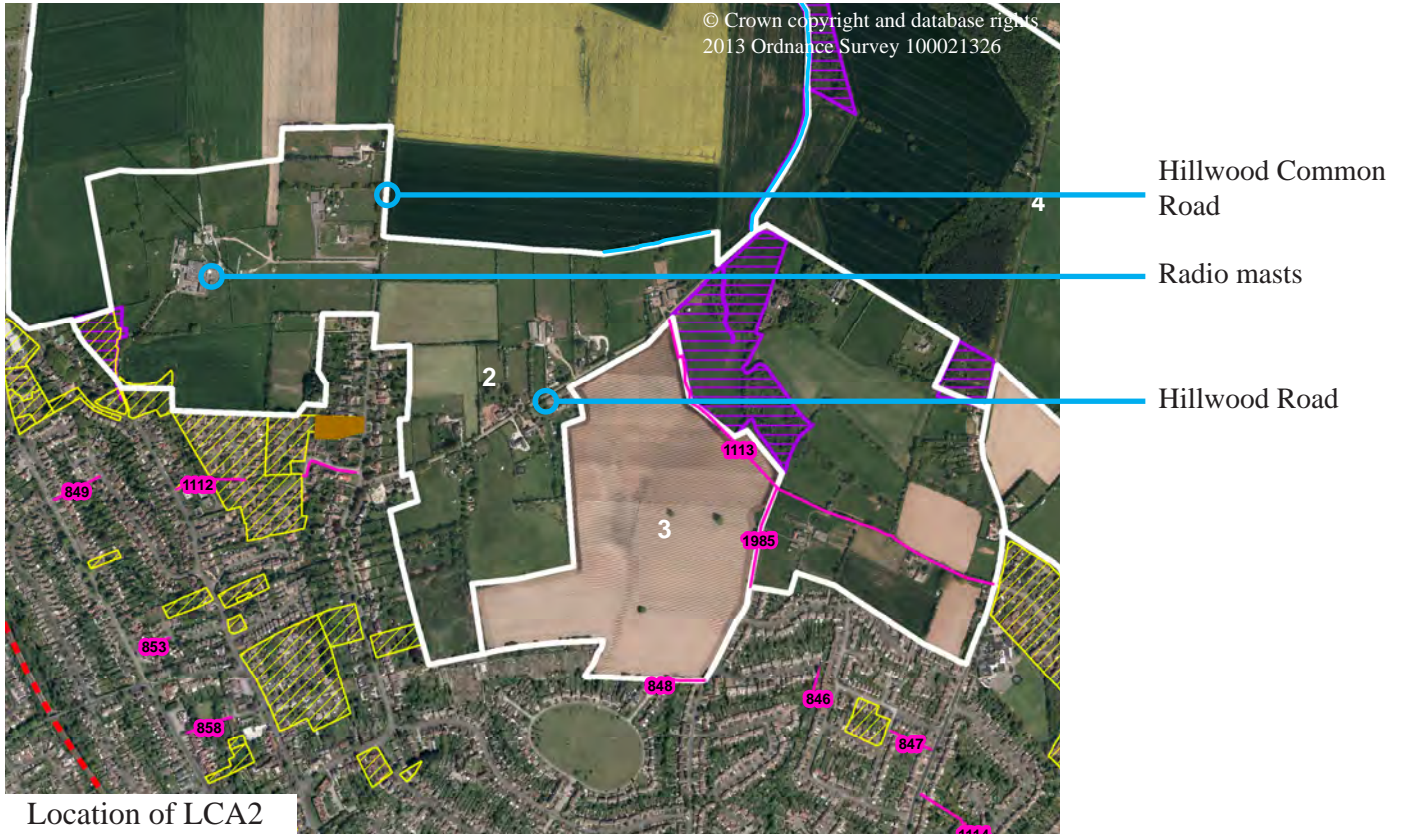
Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be High. This is due to the availability of distant views to the north west, which is rare within the wider area, and limited opportunities for visual mitigation of views from the surrounding countryside.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the rarity of the extensive view to the north west and the prominence of the hillside, balanced against the opportunities for appropriate forms of mitigation and the limited number of visual receptors.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Enhancement of the existing hedgerows and hedgerow tree planting will help to strengthen and further define and restore the arable field pattern. This will also bolster wildlife movement corridors. Enhancement of the isolated water body in north east of the character area will help to increase the biodiversity of the area. The water body already links well with surrounding woodland and the connecting hedgerows and such an asset can also be enhanced. Proposed development could be mitigated for visual receptors located in close proximity to the area through careful visual screen planting along the boundaries with consideration given to the sloping topography and localised landform variations.

LCA2: Hill Common / Hillwood Urban Fringe

Landscape Character and Views



Location of LCA2

This character area is located to the north eastern limit of the study area. The boundaries of this area are defined by; the dense urban edge of Four Oaks; Mere Green and Roughley to the south; the large arable fields of local character area 1 to the north; and Worcester Lane to the east.

Grazing is the main characteristic land use of this area interspersed with arable fields. Urbanising components such as the Sutton Coldfield transmitter masts are visually prominent in the west of the area and they occupy the highest ground at a height of 170m. Other urbanising components include farmsteads, small commercial units and detached residential development, the latter mainly having developed alongside the roads.

The relationship between the location of farmsteads and the size and rectilinear field pattern along with the rolling, open terrain convey characteristics that are largely unchanged since the 19th century and suggest a formerly more extensive agricultural landscape typical of the Midlands Plateau. The local plateau topography is bisected by a subtle, open valley form close to Hill Wood Road exhibiting gentle slopes as the land falls north to a low point of 135m. This valley has been cut by a brook as the only watercourse in this character area.

Distant views tend to be curtailed and channelled by roadside hedgerows and intervening trees and vegetation except from Worcester Lane. Views west from PROW 1113 are directed towards the south.

There are no A classification roads that pass through this character area which adds to its overall high level of tranquillity. The straight, hedgerow lined Hillwood Common Road that heads north away from the urban fringe is representative of the roads in this area that have a distinctly rural impression with grass highway verges. Street lighting and pavements are a feature close to housing but are absent along Hillwood Road and Worcester Lane. Recreational access is limited with only a single PROW permeating the area linking Manorial Farm east - west to Worcester Lane.

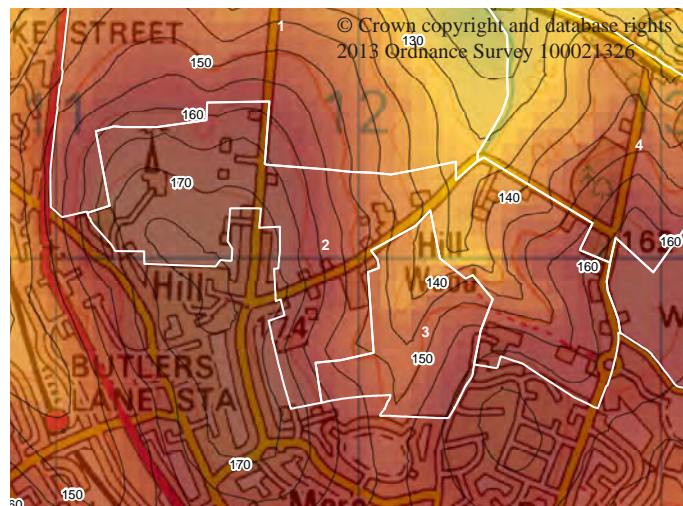
The characteristics of this area articulate a marked feeling of a transition from urban to rural. Due especially to the smaller field parcel size and predominant pastoral land use combined with the hedgerow trees, deciduous and evergreen vegetation the area overall is distinctly rural in overall character. The area also remains distinct from the dense urban edges of Four Oaks, Mere Green a feature that is accentuated by naturalistic field boundaries edged with both well managed and fragmented hedgerows. This rural impression strengthens to the east with trees and well established hedgerows becoming more prevalent in the area around Hillside Farm. The buildings along Hillwood Road are visible heritage assets.

LCA2: Hill Common / Hillwood Urban Fringe

Landscape Character and Views



V2.1 View north east along Hillwood Road



Topography of this and surrounding areas

Land Use: Land use within this area is predominantly grazing pasture but a small number of arable fields. Sutton Coldfield transmitter masts occupy land in the north east of the area. Farms and residential buildings are mainly distributed along the main roads which pass through this area, and there are substantial private gardens associated with these.

Pattern: The pattern of this area is one of rectilinear fields the layout of which have remained largely unchanged since the 19th century.

Transport and Access: Hillwood Common Road runs directly through the site linking the urban area to the south with the rural landscape in the north. Hillwood Common Road consists of a country track with hedgerow lining. Hillwood Road runs through the eastern part of site and leads towards landscape character area 1 and 4's border. The road starts off with pedestrian pavement on the right hand side which ends about a quarter of the way in. Street lighting is also present and continues along the route until the end of the residential footprint. PRoW1113 runs east to west across the east side of the site and along the boundary to LCA3.

Key Characteristics

- Large radio masts
- Mainly pastoral land use with relatively small rectilinear field pattern
- Detached residential properties and farmsteads

Key Views

- From Hillwood Road to the north east
- From Hillwood Common Road to the north
- View across the area from Worcester Lane



V2.2 View west across the area to the radio masts from Worcester Lane

LCA2: Hill Common / Hillwood Urban Fringe

Landscape Character and Views

Topography: The majority of the landform defining this character area lies predominantly above 145m in height forming part of the Midlands plateau. The topography comprises three features; a rounded shoulder of high ground rising to 170m in the west of the area with an equally high north west facing upland slope culminating at a height of 160m the two bisected by a more distinct hillside valley form with slope aspect orientated due north.

Rivers and Drainage: Due to the overall height of this character area there are no defined watercourses although the north facing slopes of this high ground and the natural drainage feed the small brook that becomes a distinct feature in its own right running northwards from the boundary of this character area.

Vegetation: There is a mixture of deciduous and evergreen vegetation that takes the form of naturalistic hedgerow field boundaries. These are well managed but parts have become fragmented over time. There are also occasional hedgerow trees throughout. The eastern side of the site contains more established hedgerows and hedgerow trees

The majority of the vegetation is situated around the residential part of Hillwood Common Road. There is a small clump of mature deciduous woodland in the south west of the area which is covered by a TPO.

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

- Distant views to the north from Hillwood Road across LCA3.
- Linear views along Hillwood Road and Hillwood Common Road are contained on either side by roadside vegetation and residential property.
- Views west along PRoW 1113 are directed towards the south due to rising topography, Dale Farm and residential property to the north. Distant views are contained by trees and vegetation, with the exception of regular views towards the radio masts in the west which are visible above other features.
- Residential properties on Hillwood Road and Hillwood Common Road are filtered by vegetation with some views out through gaps in vegetation or over lower hedgerows. Residential properties on Dugdale Crescent and Grange Lane have open views across LCA3 towards the edge of this area.
- Views into the area are generally restricted by built form and vegetation. However, there are distant views west across this area from Worcester Lane, north of the junction with Harvest Fields Way.



V2.3 View north along Hillwood Common Road

LCA2: Hill Common / Hillwood Urban Fringe

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the rarity of this character type within in the wider area, its elevated tranquillity and the good condition.

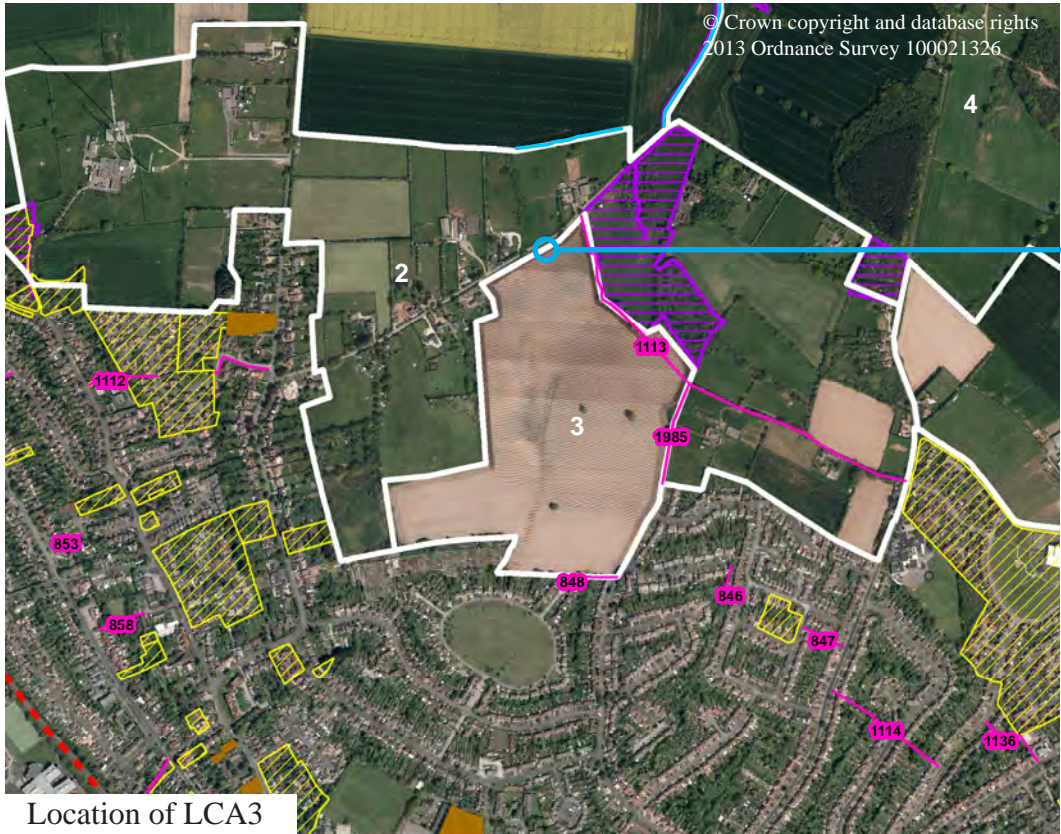
Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the opportunities for visual mitigation, the limited number of visual receptors and the short to middle distance views from the area.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the opportunities for appropriate forms of mitigation and the limited number of visual receptors.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Retention of existing vegetation and integration within any development would enable the pattern of the existing character to remain and help to screen development from surrounding areas. Enhancement and additional tree planting within roadside hedgerows would help to retain the character of existing linear views along Hillwood Road and Hillwood Common Road.

LCA3: Hillwood Farm Rural Fringe

Landscape Character and Views



Hillwood Road

Location of LCA3

Sandwiched between the dense, 20th Century suburban housing fringe of Mere Green and the contrasting detached residential properties dispersed along Hill Wood Road to the north, this area comprises a single, featureless arable field.

LCA3 is defined primarily by its Midlands Plateau landform whose topography is distinctly undulating but crossed by subtle evenly graded contours that create a shallow valley feature. The highest contours reach 160m whilst the lowest coincide with the course of the east west course of Hillwood Road marking a ridgeline. Any historic field patterns in this area have been lost through the gradual removal of hedgerows and field boundaries parcels due to recent agricultural practices. Only a few isolated remnant mature hedgerow trees remain within the character area and combined with the absence of watercourses or water bodies the ecological value is judged to be low.

The boundary features contribute important components to the character. Along Hill Wood Road and Grange Lane hedgerow trees are absent but elsewhere the areas' boundary is marked by copses as well as low and well maintained hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees.

The area has a moderate degree of tranquillity due to the homogeneity of its form and agricultural nature, the absence of any highways and by virtue of the route of the only PRow (No.1113) being restricted to and marking the areas' northern boundary.

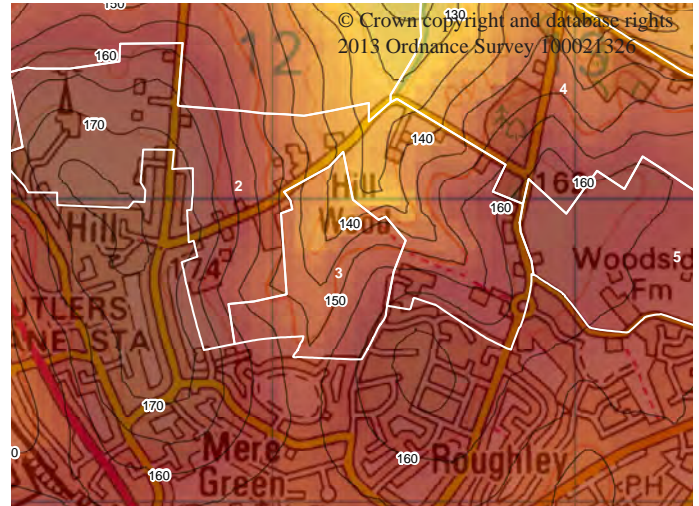
Uninterrupted, expansive middle distance views are possible from Hillwood Road and PRow 1113 to the southern horizon. These views, of the rear of residential properties on Dugdale Crescent, are filtered by hedgerows and trees along this boundary. Around this character area views are mostly inward looking and from locations where hedgerows are low and trees absent there is a close visual connection between the character area and those residential properties on Grange Lane and Pudsey Drive. This visual resource contrasts with views gained from residential properties on Hillwood Road in the north and from the allotments off Gibbons Road in the south which are filtered by vegetation. Views of the Sutton Coldfield transmitter aerials are prominent from Grange Lane.

LCA3: Hillwood Farm Rural Fringe

Landscape Character and Views



V3.1 View south from Hillwood Road



Topography of this and surrounding areas

Key Characteristics

- Large open field with distant views across the area
- A few isolated field trees

Key Views

- South from Hillwood Road
- Across the area from residential properties and PRow's

Land Use: This area consists of one large arable field with a few scattered mature trees.

Pattern: The pattern of the fields in this area has been changed through the gradual removal of hedgerows and boundaries. The result is now one large field with a few isolated remnant mature hedgerow trees.

Transport and Access: PRow1113 runs east to west across the northern field boundary edge. There are no designated transport or PRow routes that cross the centre of the area.



V3.2 View south west across the area and along Hillwood Road

LCA3: Hillwood Farm Rural Fringe

Landscape Character and Views

Topography: The majority of the landform defining this character area lies above 135m in height rising to a maximum of 160m and is distinguished by the distinct 'V' shaped contours to these northern facing Midlands plateau side slopes.

Rivers and Drainage: There are no defined watercourses running through this character area but these upper slopes of a what is a north facing valley drain towards the small brook in the lower reaches of the valley side beyond this character area boundary.

Vegetation: The area is bounded by a mix of vegetation types that are low and well maintained. This boundary edge flows through the area to form field hedgerows which contain hedgerow trees throughout. A few isolated mature trees within fields make up the remaining vegetation.

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

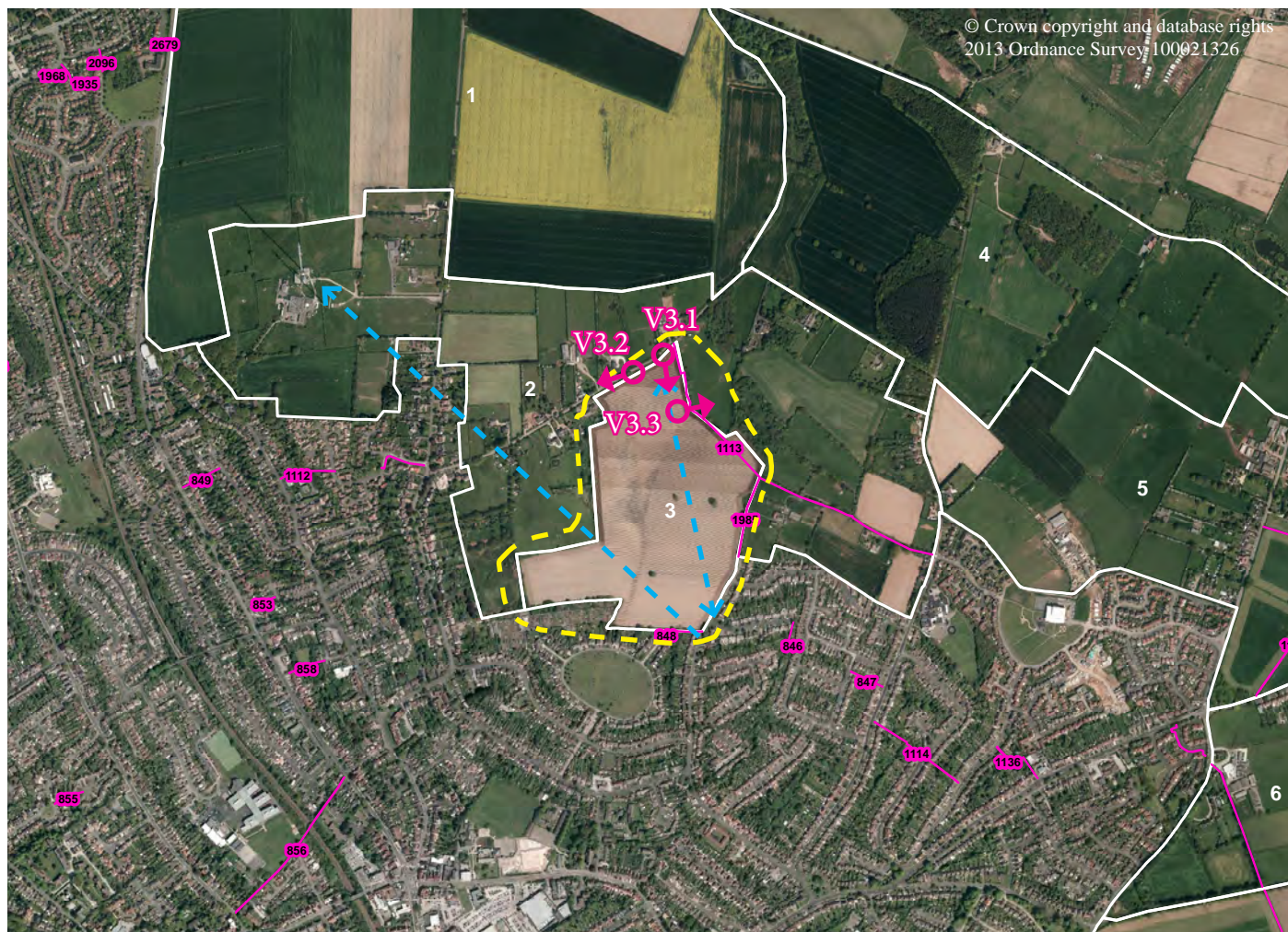
- There are distant open views across the area from Hillwood Road and PRow 1113. Views are directed across this area due to vegetation to the north east of the PRow and the hedgerow to the north of Hillwood Road. These views are contained by residential properties along the edge of the area on Dugdale Crescent and Grange Lane visible along the skyline.
- There are direct views into the area are from those residential properties on Dugdale Crescent and Grange Lane. Views of the area from residential properties on Hillwood Road in the north and the allotments off Gibbons Road in the south are filtered by vegetation.



V3.3 View north from PRow1113

LCA3: Hillwood Farm Rural Fringe

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



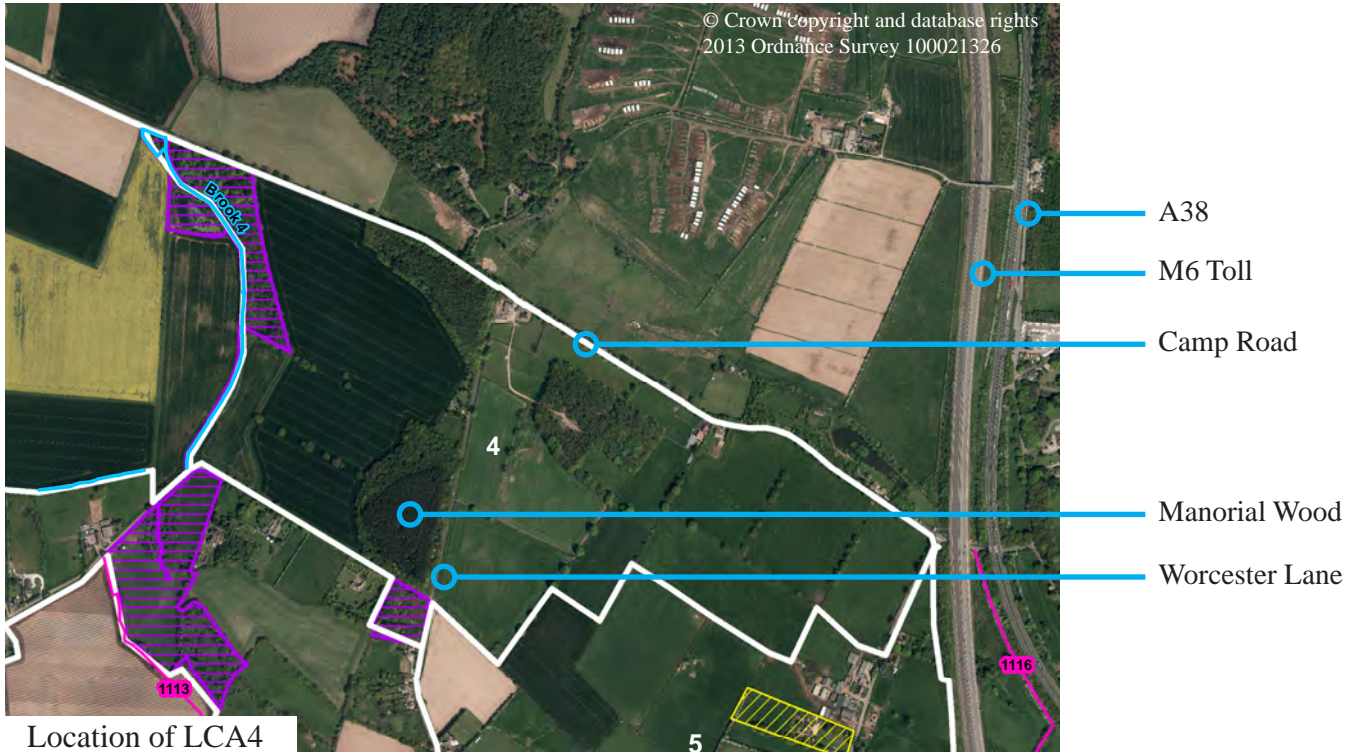
Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be Low. This is due to the limited number of landscape components within in the wider area, limited rarity and degraded condition.

Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the views across the area from PRow's and residential properties. Visual impacts could also be mitigated to some degree.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be Low. This is due to the opportunities for appropriate forms of mitigation, ease of accommodating the existing trees into any future proposed development pattern.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Planting on upper slopes near to residential receptors would help to screen views and the creation of a green corridor followed by PRow's would help to retain the natural character of these routes. The area could be enhanced through greater diversity of green infrastructure.

LCA4: Manorial Wood and Springhill Plantation Plateau Farmland Landscape Character and Views



This character area is located at the northern most edge of the study area and is distinctly rural with few urbanising components. Built form is limited with locations restricted to the periphery of the area. Contour heights range from 120m in the north rising to a high point of 160m close to the junction of Hill Wood Lane and Worcester Lane marking what is a subtle northern ridgeline to this part of the Midlands Plateau. LCA4's other boundaries are defined by the course the Weeford Road, close to the corridor of the M6 Toll motorway, in the east and a watercourse in a shallow valley in the west.

The area is a product of its pattern of historic field boundaries characteristic of the 19th century enclosures which is in contrast to the large featureless arable fields characterised in much of LCA1. This field pattern is still evident through retention of the mature hedgerow trees and remnants of hedgerow across larger fields that delineate older field parcels although some are poorly maintained and now fragmented.

This area is more diverse and richer in landscape character than some of the surrounding, purely arable farmland across this part of the Midlands Plateau. Landscape components comprise a mixture of arable, pasture and blocks of, mostly deciduous, woodland. Hedgerows are generally well maintained with numerous hedgerow trees. Contributing noticeably to the local character of this area are four separate stands of mature woodland. Manorial Wood has a coniferous core with a surrounding deciduous shelterbelt. The woodlands east and west of Worcester Lane are well established and well managed. Springhill Plantation to the east is

wholly deciduous whilst the woodland to the west has a coniferous core with deciduous shelterbelt. The fourth and westernmost block of woodland is mixed and shares a boundary with the watercourse that follows a natural low point in the terrain.

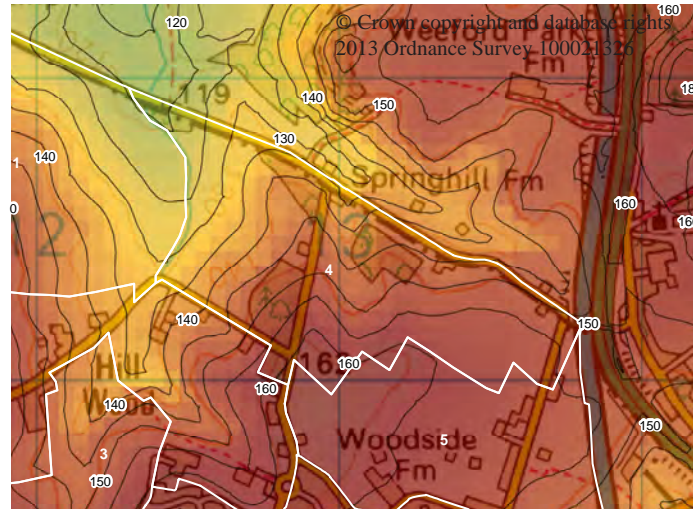
Only two local roads contribute to the area's character as physical boundaries and in terms of visual character and noise. Worcester Lane bisects the area linking the south to the rural north and is distinctly narrow in places and with limited signage and no street lighting is rural in character. Camp Road, a traditional, 'forty foot' drove road delineates the northern edge of the character area with low hedges and grass verges. Weeford Road along eastern edge is similar in character. The absence of Public Rights of Way and limited traffic on highways contribute to this area's relatively high measure of tranquillity.

From Camp Road there are middle distance views south towards the rising topography and ridgeline marked by Hill Wood Road where the horizon line silhouettes hedgerow trees and woodland copses. Publicly accessible viewpoints are limited to some locations along Worcester Lane within this character area. There are open, expansive middle distance views across farmland, hedgerows and hedgerow trees from the junction of Worcester Lane and Hillwood Road which extend to the M6 Toll in the east. The blocks of woodland curtail and frame views and introduce a degree of intimacy to the landscape. Farmsteads and detached residential properties have wholly rural and often uninterrupted views across this character area.

LCA4: Manorial Wood and Springhill Plantation Plateau Farmland Landscape Character and Views



V4.1 View north along Worcester Lane



Topography of this and surrounding areas

Land Use: This area consists of a mixture of arable, pasture and blocks of woodland. The area is bounded by Weeford Road to the east and a watercourse in a shallow valley to the west. The area is bisected by Worcester Lane.

Pattern: The pattern of this area is derived from the layout of the field boundaries characteristic of the 19th century enclosures. However, across some of the larger fields these old boundaries are now delineated by mature trees which are remnants of the hedgerows that have been removed.

Transport and Access: Worcester Lane runs through the centre of the area linking the south to the rural north. Worcester Lane is country road with narrow sections in places and limited signage with no street lighting. Camp Road is a country road that runs along the northern edge of the character area. Weeford Road along eastern edge provides access for the existing farm buildings and is similar in character to that of Camp Road at this location. There are no PRowWs that cross this area.

Key Characteristics

- Woodland blocks providing a defined structure
- Hedgerows with hedgerow trees
- Sloping topography with a north facing aspect

Key Views

- From Worcester Lane to the north east



V4.2 View into Manorial Wood from Worcester Lane

LCA4: Manorial Wood and Springhill Plantation Plateau Farmland Landscape Character and Views

Topography: The topography of this character area can be defined as a mostly north facing Midlands plateau side slope. Heights range from 120m in the north to 160m AOD the latter contour marking a ridgeline to the plateau. A shoulder of higher ground in the west of this character area projects northwards resulting in a plateau side slope facing north west.

Rivers and Drainage: Due mostly to this character area being upland in nature there are no defined watercourses although the north facing slopes combined with the natural drainage feed the small brook running south north that also demarcates the low point and western edge of this character area.

Vegetation: Area four displays well maintained hedgerows with numerous hedgerow trees. The area contains four separate woodland clumps with the Manorial Wood, located towards the south of the area west of Worcester Lane, being the most prominent.

There are also clumps of woodland east and west of Worcester Lane, towards the north of the area that are well established and contain a mixture of mature trees. All groups of woodland appear to be well managed.

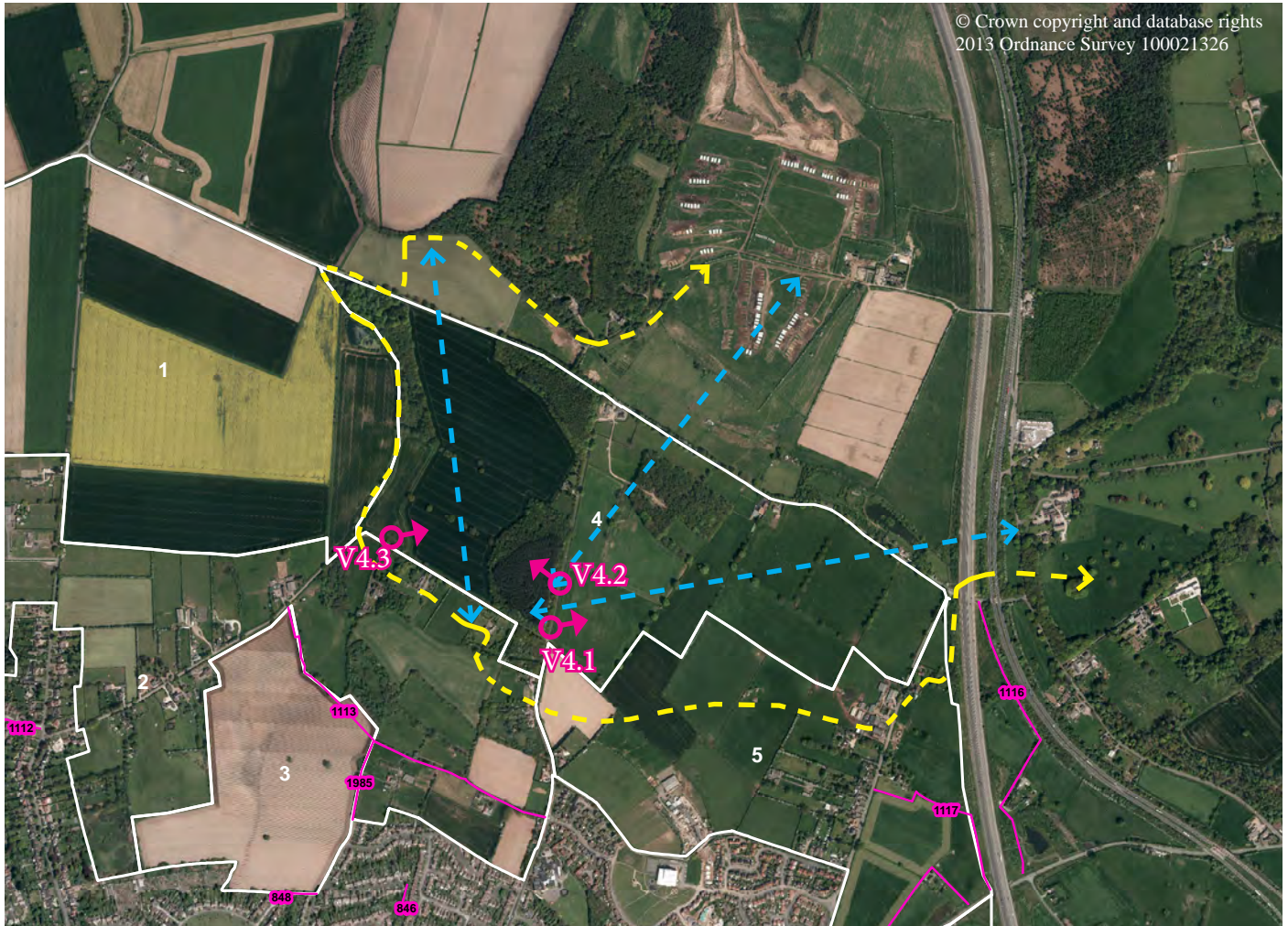
Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

- Publicly accessible viewpoints are limited within this character area to Worcester Lane.
- Near the junction of Worcester Lane and Hillwood Road, views are directed east due to the dense Manorial Wood to the west of Worcester Lane. Views are open, include farmland, hedgerows and hedgerow trees and extend to the M6 Toll in the east and towards the Pig Farm on the hillside to the north.
- Individual properties (one located to the north of Manorial Wood and two to the south of Camp Road) have views across parts of this area.
- There are views north east across the western side of the area from Hillwood Road that are contained by the woodland blocks within the area.
- From Camp Road there are views of rising topography in the north of the area through gaps in roadside vegetation.



V4.3 View north across the area from Hillwood Road

LCA4: Manorial Wood and Springhill Plantation Plateau Farmland Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be High. This is due to the rarity of the landscape within in the wider area, its tranquillity, condition and separation from influence along the urban edge.

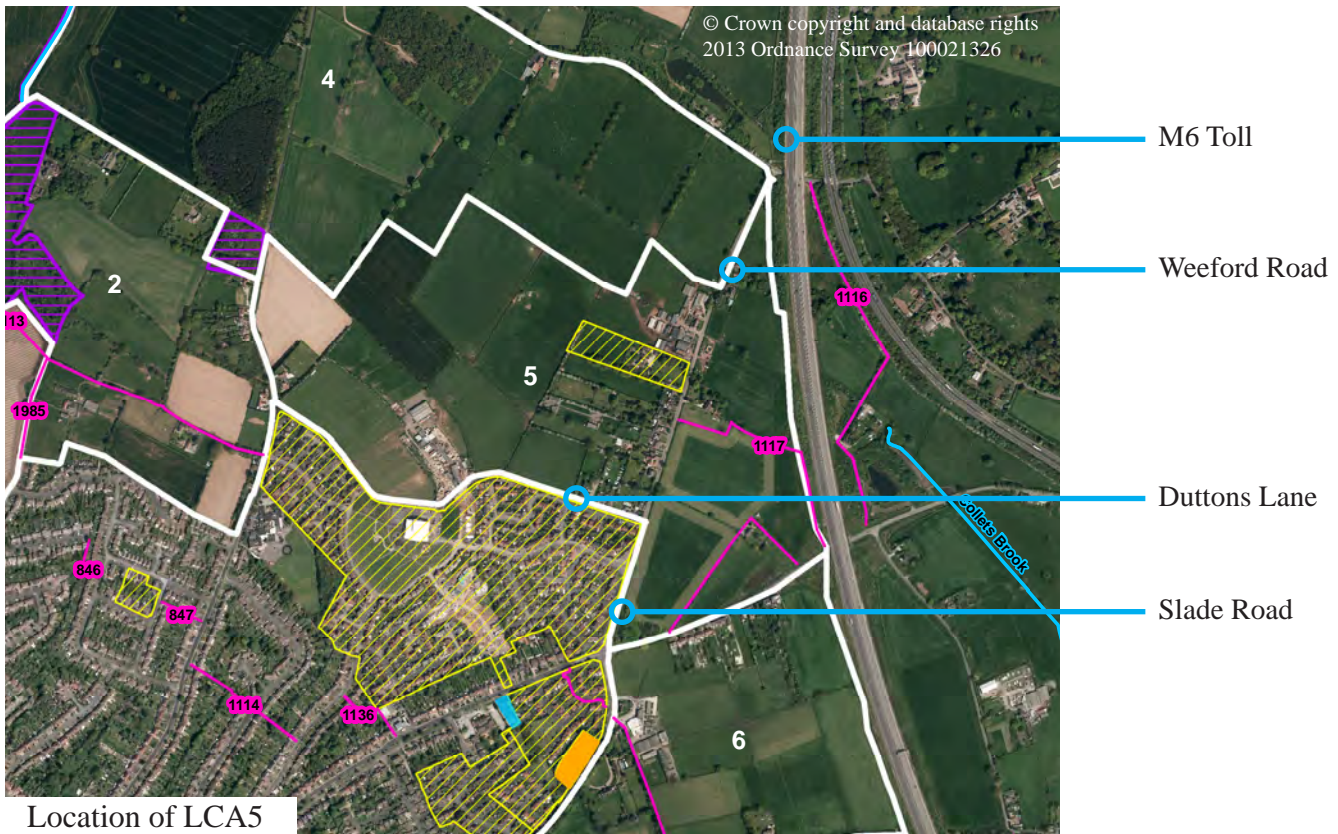
Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the views to the north east that are afforded from within the area which are rare within the wider landscape.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be High. This is due to the lack of existing urban influence, the amount and condition of existing vegetation and the rarity of the landscape type within the wider area.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Enhanced management of the existing woodland blocks, creation of new woodland, additional hedgerow tree planting and reinstatement of lost field boundaries. Potential mitigation of development might be achieved by screen planting alongside roads although its success at mitigating views from the north may be limited due to the rising landform. Views to the north east from Worcester Lane could be retained by appropriate development layout design.

LCA5: Turf Pits Lane Plateau Farmland

Landscape Character and Views



This character area is distinguished by its plateau landform forming part of the eastern spine of high ground to the north of the study area. This high point is in marked contrast to the southern character areas – south of Withy Hill Road and the majority of the contours are above 145m in height.

This is a more intimate landscape by virtue of the mixture of arable and pasture land use consisting of relatively small field sizes compared to surrounding character areas. This impression is enhanced by gardens and paddocks of the residential properties found along Weeford Road and Duttons Lane. Whilst these along with commercial premises such as Tom Poole Cars and A&P Fencing (accessed from Dutton Lane) are urbanising and components the overall character is very much rural. There is a large assemblage of agricultural sheds and hoppers at Hilltop Farm but hedgerows and land across the area are well managed.

Large stands of trees and copses are absent but a mixture of hedgerow trees and isolated hedgerow trees contribute to the rural character and potential as ecological assets. The area conveys a degree of time depth evidenced by the regular geometric field pattern that has remained largely unchanged since the 19th Century. Such character is being eroded in places through the amalgamation of fields and the loss of some hedgerow trees. The well established and well maintained hedgerows and hedgerow trees

that follow field boundaries provide screening, and break up views of residential properties along Weeford Road. Due to the areas' high ground there are no defined watercourses although there are several small water bodies including a small ornamental pond within the grounds of Hilltop Farm and a man-made water storage pond just north of Slade Road. The historic buildings on Turf Pits Lane and Weeford Road are visible heritage assets.

The area is less tranquil than character areas to the west on the plateau due to the busy B4151 that passes through the area in the south, linking the urban edge in the west to the two major transport routes of the A446 and indirectly the M6 Toll motorway. Weeford Lane marks the current limit of residential development to the west and has street lighting to both sides. With the wind in an easterly direction the M6 Toll motorway can be heard reducing the areas tranquility.

The area has a higher level of permeability and recreational opportunity than areas further west including three Public Rights of Way namely: PRoW 1117 (that connects to PRoW 1116 on other the side of the M6 Toll motorway) and joins up with Weeford Road; PRoW 1116 that runs along Slade Road in the south and follows Turfs Pit Lane and PRoW 1141 which runs along the south western boundary.

LCA5: Turf Pits Lane Plateau Farmland

Landscape Character and Views



V5.1 Group of pine trees north of Slade Road

Expansive, long distance views south east are possible from higher ground along Weeford Road for example although on lower lying areas, such as route of the B4151, similarly orientated views are curtailed by intervening residential properties, hedgerows, natural vegetation and the M6 Toll corridor embankment.

There are similar expansive but middle distance views that can be gained from Worcester Lane due to its elevated position, low hedgerow although views are curtailed south east by a row of uncharacteristic, urban evergreens. More open views across the area are possible from PROW 1116 and 1117.

Key Characteristics

- Residential properties and urban influence along Weeford Road
- Relatively flat topography

Key Views

- View south from the north of Weeford Road
- Views into and across the area from residential properties and PROW's

Land Use: This area consists of a mixture of arable, pasture and blocks of woodland. The area is bounded by Weeford Road to the east and a watercourse in a shallow valley to the west. The area is bisected by Worcester Lane.

Pattern: The regular geometric field pattern in this area have remained largely unchanged since the 19th Century enclosures with the exception of the amalgamation of a couple of fields and the loss of some hedgerow trees.

Transport and Access: The B4151 Slade Road runs along the southern boundary, linking the urban area on the west to major transport routes. There is a pavement and street lighting along length of the road within this area, however, the pavement is only located on the southern side of the road.



V5.2 View towards residential properties on Weeford Road from PROW1116

LCA5: Turf Pits Lane Plateau Farmland

Landscape Character and Views

Weeford Road runs north-south from LCA4 and runs directly through the area. Again, there is a pedestrian pavement along one side of the route (the west) and street lighting. A hedgerow runs along the eastern length. Dutton's Lane runs east to west from Weeford Lane to Worcester Lane and is an enclosed narrow road with a mix of hedgerow and urbanising features. PRoW1117 connects to PRoW1116 on other side of M6 Toll and joins up to Weeford Road. PRoW 1116 runs along Slade Road in the south and up along Turfs Pit Lane This PRoW starts off as field tracks then joins to Turfs Pits Lane.

Topography: The local topography within this character area is defined as a relatively flat, upland area forming part of the eastern spine of the Midlands plateau and with the majority of the contours over 145m in height.

Rivers and Drainage: Due to this local character area being entirely defined by higher ground there are no defined watercourses. There are several small water bodies notably: a small ornamental pond within the grounds of Hilltop Farm and a man-made water storage pond just north of Slade Road.

Vegetation: There is a limited amount of vegetation within this area but a mixture of hedgerow trees and isolated trees provides the some soft elements of interest. There are a group of pine trees located at the junction of Slade Road and Weeford Road.

Surrounding the area are well established hedgerows following field boundaries with regular hedgerow trees that provide screening, particularly around the few residential properties along Weeford Road.

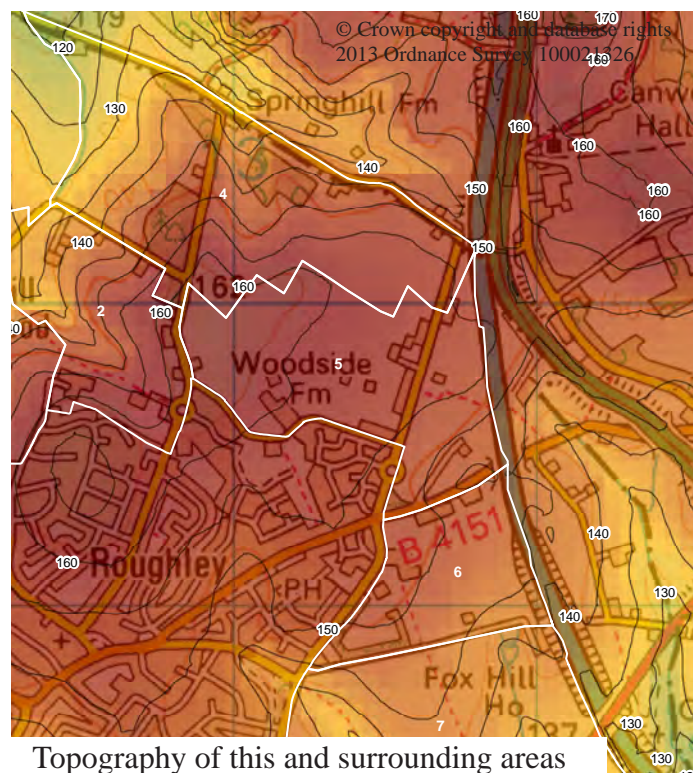
A TPO is located across one field to the west of Weeford Road.

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

- Views from within this area to areas beyond are limited by a number of elements including build form, vegetation and the M6 Toll corridor.
- Views of the west of this character area are primarily from the rear of residential properties on Weeford Road, properties to the south of Duttons Lane and the Harvest Fields Community Centre. Views across the west of the area from residential properties on Worcester Lane are limited by falling topography to the north and a row of evergreen trees to the east.
- The central area between Weeford Road and Slade Road is overlooked by residential properties and transport on both of those roads as well as the isolated property on Turf Pits Lane. This part of the character area also contains PRoW 1116 and 1117 from which there are open views of the area.



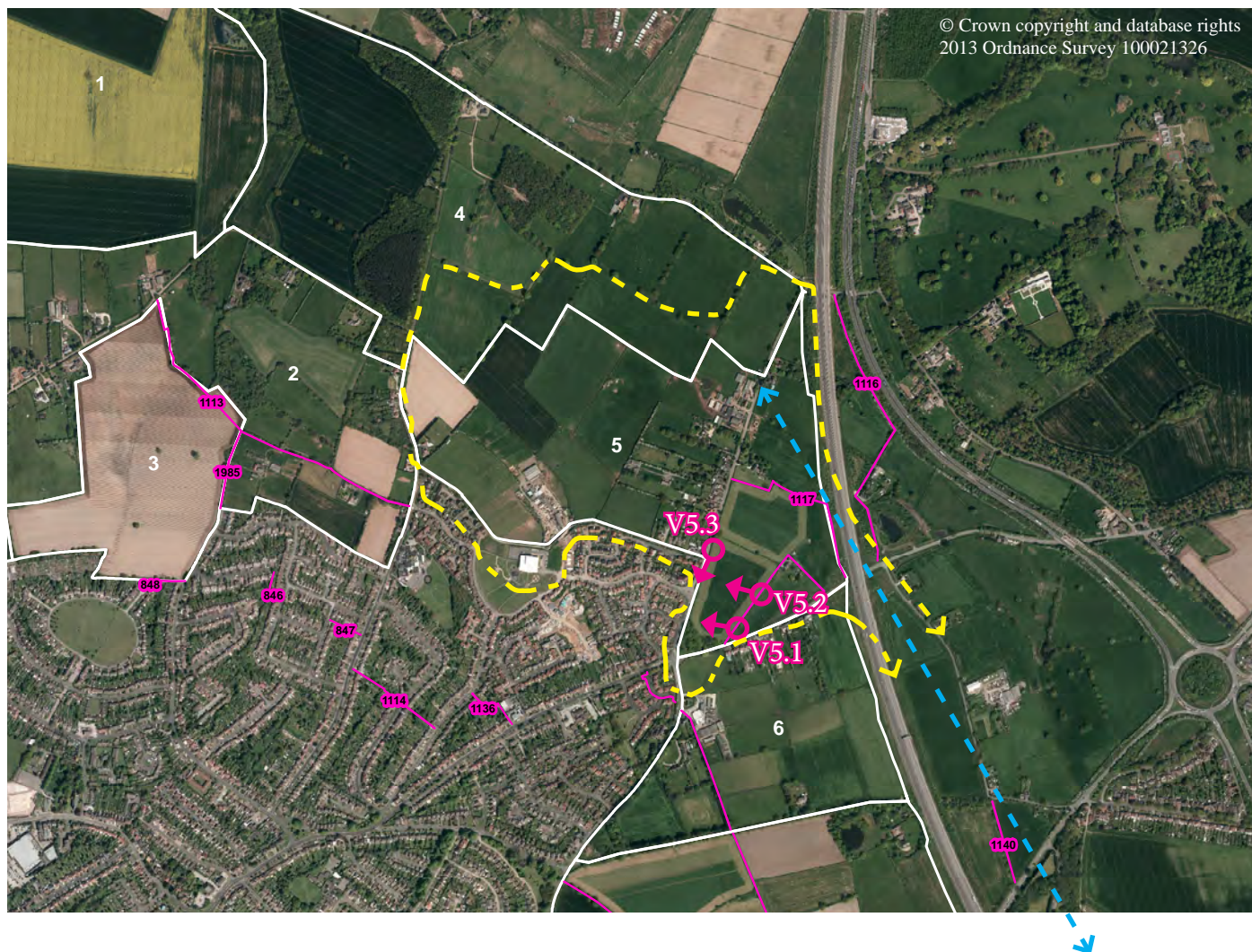
V5.3 View south along Weeford Road



Topography of this and surrounding areas

LCA5: Turf Pits Lane Plateau Farmland

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be Low. This is due to the abundance of this type of landscape within the wider area and its lack of tranquillity due to its interior road network.

Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the presence as a range of residential properties overlooking the area from different angles. There are limited opportunities for long distance views and some opportunities to mitigate visual impact.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be Low. This is due to the presence of an existing urban influence, the limited number of landscape features and the abundance of this type of landscape within the wider area.

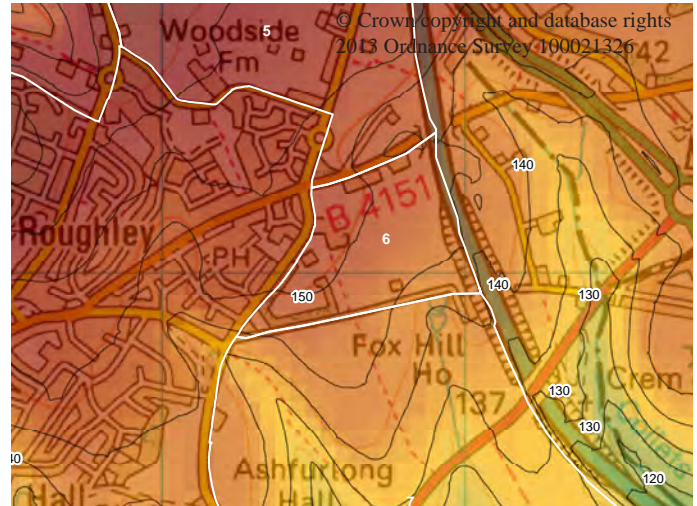
Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Enhanced options could include increased biodiversity around water bodies and planting of hedgerow trees along road boundaries. Mitigation measures could include high quality design and micro-siting of built form near existing properties and the planting of woodland blocks and trees.

LCA6: Chase Farm Enclosed Farmland

Landscape Character and Views



V6.1 View along the southern boundary of the area



Topography of this and surrounding areas

Land Use: This area consists of pastoral farmland, residential property and farm buildings.

Pattern: The regular geometric field pattern in this area has remained largely unchanged since the 19th Century enclosures.

Transport and Access: The area is bounded by roads on all sides. Slade Road is located to the north, Weeford Road to the west, Fox Hill Road to the south and the M6 Toll to the east in cutting. PRoW 1141 connects Weeford Road to Fox Hill Road through the area which continues further south to LCA6.

Topography: The local topography within this character area is defined as a relatively flat, upland area forming part of the eastern spine of the Midlands plateau and with the contours varying from 150m to 145m AOD west to east.

Vegetation: The predominant vegetation typology across the area is hedgerows. Linear avenues of mature trees are located alongside Fox Hill Road and PRoW1141.



V6.2 View south from field gate on Slade Road

LCA6: Chase Farm Enclosed Farmland Landscape Character and Views

Rivers and Drainage: There are no ponds or watercourses within this character area.

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

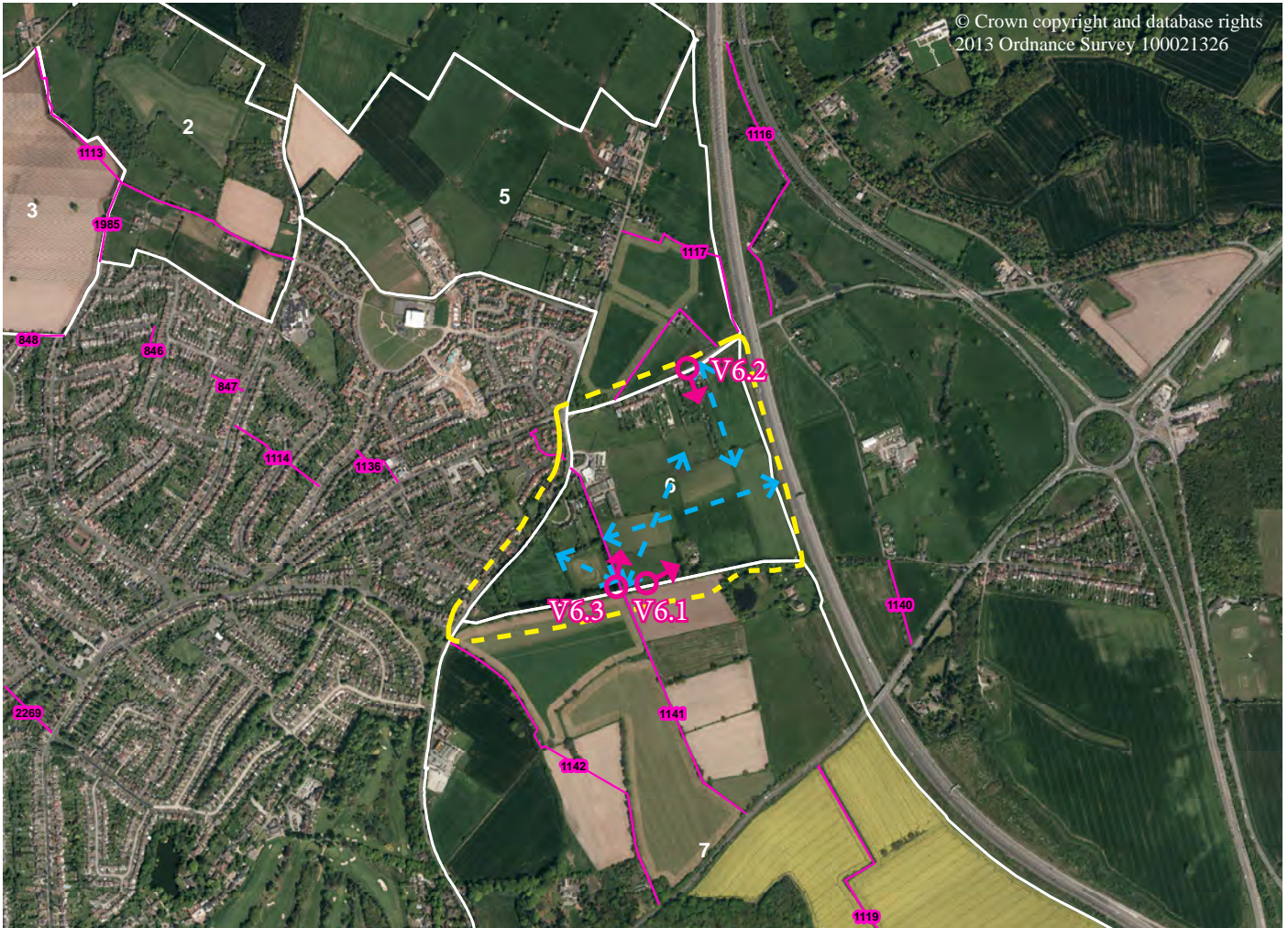
- Views from the rear of properties on Slade Road (although most views are filtered by garden vegetation), the property on Fox Hill Road and from the Chase Farm Shop on Weeford Road.
- PRow 1141 runs along the south western boundary of this area, views from this PRow are directed into the area by the presence of a row of vegetation to the west.
- There are filtered views into the outer edges of the area from the surrounding road network.



V6.3 View north from Withy Hill Road

LCA6: Chase Farm Enclosed Farmland

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the well preserved field pattern and well managed hedgerows with trees.

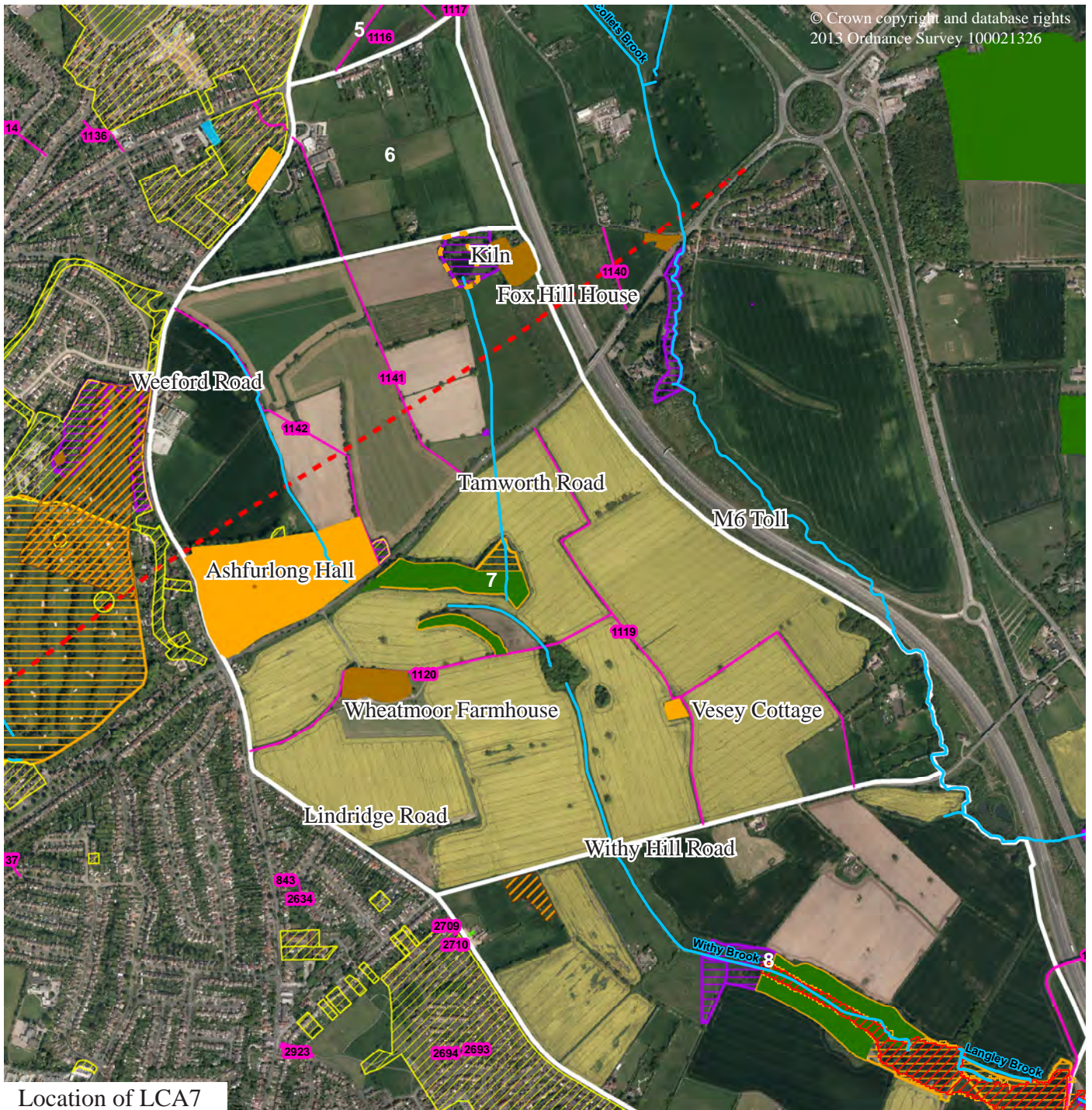
Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due the presence of a number of residential and receptors and a PRoW but views from the area are enclosed by vegetation. There are opportunities for visual mitigation due to the level topography.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the presence of well maintained field structure and a number of visual receptors.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Enhancement of the existing hedgerows and hedgerow tree planting will help to strengthen and further define field pattern. This will also bolster wildlife movement corridors. Proposed development could be mitigated through careful visual screen planting along the boundaries and between development and existing properties. The PRoW could be contained as a green corridor across the site.

LCA7: Wheatmoor Plateau Farmland and Valleyside

Landscape Character and Views



Location of LCA7

The northern section of this character area contains landscape and visual components typical of Midlands Plateau farmland similar to LCA6. The character area is physically and culturally distinct from adjacent character areas. This is due in part to the combined effect of historic land use and landform. The potential water source provided by the upper tributaries of Wither Brook has led, in the past, to the establishment of larger more affluent farmsteads (occupying prominent areas of high ground) and rural industries associated with clay extraction. An area of ridge and furrow, south of Wither Hill Road adjacent to Wither Hill Farm, is a surface feature of the areas' landscape heritage.

The most distinctive landform is the broad valley created by Wither Brook exhibiting gently sloping valley sides that fall from 140m in the north to 120m in the south. The rounded 'shoulder' of high ground separates the two catchments of Collets Brook and Wither Brook.

The area has a strong degree of time depth which can still be evidenced in the landscape although degraded in parts mainly through modern agricultural practices of increasing field size by hedgerow removal. The main land use is arable but this is interspersed with occasional stands of woodland and well maintained hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Wheatmoor Wood is one of two

LCA7: Wheatmoor Plateau Farmland and Valleyside

Landscape Character and Views

designated ancient woodlands adjoining the SLINC which is also designated but lying within an adjacent landscape character area. Throughout the area can be seen isolated trees which are the only clue to the existence of former field boundaries. Wheatmoor Plantation forms the other main stand of woodland.

Grade II Listed Wheatmoor Farm in the west and Collets Farm, the Grade II* Listed Vesey Cottage, Grade II Listed Fox Hill House, High Heath Farm to the south east of the area close to Withy Hill Road and Mitchells Art and Craft Centre off the Weeford Road constitute the main residential properties, farmsteads and rural enterprises. Their size, setting and status suggest long historical associations that have contributed to the current character of this area.

The area can be considered to have a moderate degree of tranquility due primarily to the land use and large field size and distance from urban edge and transport corridors to the east although this is reduced where the area is bisected by Tamworth Road. Recreational access is good with several Public Rights of Way crisscrossing the area offering permeability from the urban periphery – that is curtailed by the M6 Motorway corridor in the east.

The visual experience of this character area varies from sequential, near distance inward views to distant, expansive views especially to the south east from within

the character area and from higher ground on the western edge. The visual experience from the four PROWs is important to the impression that can be gained of the area. of an open landscape and predominantly rural although the sequential views along PROW 1120 are diverse with changing views that include Wheatmoor Farm, woodland belts, the watercourse and Vesey Cottage.

Key Characteristics

- A number of PROW's crossing the area
- Valley landform
- Clumps of trees and isolated trees creating a parkland type landscape
- Range of isolated Listed Buildings including Grade II* Listed Vesey Cottage and Ashfurlong Hall

Key Views

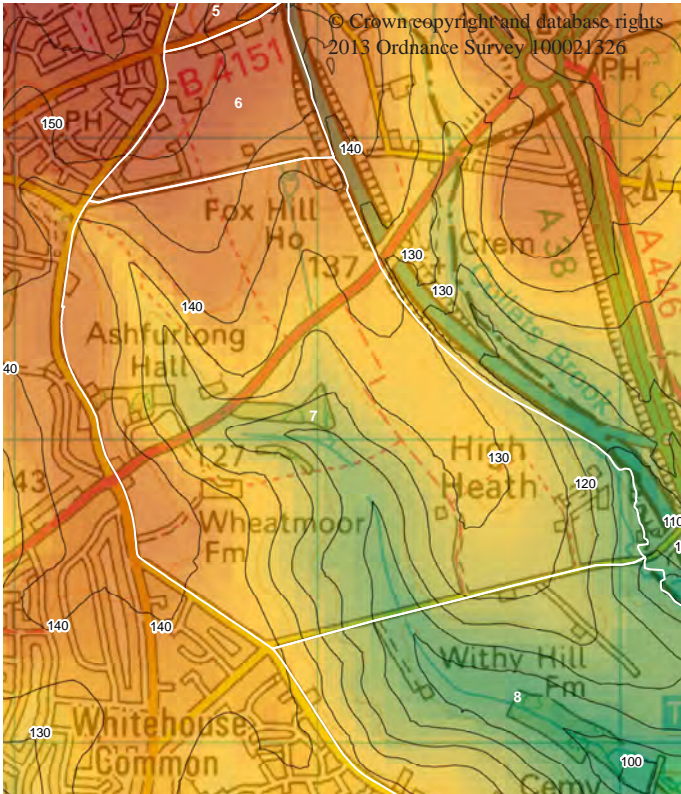
- North east from the west of Withy Hill Road
- General extended views across the area



V7.1 View north east from Withy Hill Road

LCA7: Wheatmoor Plateau Farmland and Valleyside

Landscape Character and Views



Topography of this and surrounding areas

Land Use: Land use within this area is arable fields and blocks of woodland along a watercourse following the shallow valley formed by the topography. Wheatmoor Wood and Wheatmoor Plantation are the two main areas of woodland. The area is bisected by Tamworth Road. Wheatmoor Farm is in the west and Collets Farm and High Heath Farm to the south east corner off Withy Hill Road. Mitchells Art and Craft Centre off the Weeford Road lies to the north west. The area includes a small parkland estate around Ashfurlong Hall and with Ashfurlong Nurseries.

Pattern: The patterns of the arable fields in this area follow the landform to either side of the shallow valley and Withy Brook. The field sizes have become larger in the last century as hedgerows have been removed or relocated, and in some instances isolated mature trees are the only clue to the existence of previous boundaries.

Transport and Access: Withy Hill Road runs along the southern edge boundary and connects the east to west. This is a country lane with narrow segments along the route.

The main route through area is Tamworth Road A453 which consists of a main road, that is in cutting in places, with a grass verge and no pavement. PRoW 1120 joins this route in the north east towards the M6 Toll. The western boundary of the area is formed by Weeford Road and Lindridge Road which have predominantly residential uses and pavements to the west and a hedgerow and agricultural land to the east. There are streetlights along Weeford Road. The M6 Toll runs along the eastern boundary and is in cutting along the length.

PRoW 1120 and 1119 run through the area. PRoW 1119 runs north to south connecting to PRoW 1141 in the north and Withy Hill Road in the south. PRoW 1120 runs east to west linking the built urban form in the west to the rural countryside in the east by joining to Withy Hill Road.

Topography: The majority of the landform within this character area is low lying with distinct, broad hillside valley forms occupied by watercourses feeding Withy Brook in a south easterly direction. The topography is predominantly below 140m in height with contours that fall gently to form south



V7.2 View north along Withy Brook

LCA7: Wheatmoor Plateau Farmland and Valleyside

Landscape Character and Views

and east facing slopes of the Midlands plateau. A distinct feature defining the eastern extent of the area are the even contours and rounded shoulder of relatively higher ground, at circa 130m, that separates the two open, fluvial catchments of Collets Brook and Withy Brook. The main aspect of the hillside slopes to this shoulder is west, whilst the contours to the western edge of this character area create extensive, evenly graded slopes with an easterly aspect. The northern and western extremes of this area include edges of high ground that constitutes the Midlands plateau.

Rivers and Drainage: There is one isolated, water body within this character area close to Fox Hill House adjacent to Fox Hill Road. Withy Brook is the main watercourse draining the area that flows in a south easterly direction from two hillside tributaries fed from the south facing, upper slopes of this eastern limit of the Midlands plateau.

Vegetation: The area contains a section of ancient woodland at Wheatmoor Wood adjoining the SLINC from landscape character area seven. The rest of the site contains similar segments of woodland and also isolated trees throughout.

Although there is limited hedgerow coverage, the few road networks through site are surrounded by established woodland pockets and well maintained hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

Ashfurlong Hall is enclosed by mixed dense woodland that is covered by a TPO, the boundary has high and well maintained hedgerows creating a more private setting.

Heritage: The visible heritage assets within the area include:

- Grade II* Listed Vesey Cottage: An early 16th Century red sandstone two storey house building with tiled roof. The small plot within which the building site contains mixed vegetation around three sides.
- Grade II* Listed Ashfurlong Hall: A late 18th Century two storey sandstone property. The building is enclosed by a garden wall and mature mixed vegetation.
- Grade II Listed Pavillion at Ashfurlong Hall: Tetrastyle Roman Ionic portico with entablature

and blocking course, small lead dome with ball finial. The pavillion is enclosed by mature mixed vegetation.

- Grade II Listed Fox Hill House and Beehive Kiln: A two storey 19th Century house with symmetrical three window front. Brick-built bottle type kiln dating to the 19th century, with associated claypits at Fox Hill House. Setting includes vegetation and pond to north, east and west with more open views to the south.
- Grade II Listed Wheatmoor Farmhouse: Two storey 18th Century farmhouse in a Gothic style with a castellated parapet. It is likely that it was originally designed to be seen from Ashfurlong Hall.
- Two blocks of ancient woodland are located to the north east of Wheatmoor Farmhouse in the valley bottom of this character area. The northern block is just over two hectares in size whilst the southern block is half a hectare in size.
- An area of ridge and furrow, seven metres wide running east-west, has been recorded to the south of Withy Hill Road adjacent to Withy Hill Farm.
- There is an historic field boundary bank to the north of Ashfurlong Hall and former dam in the woodland east of Wheatmoor Farm.



V7.3 View north along Tamworth Road

LCA7: Wheatmoor Plateau Farmland and Valleyside

Landscape Character and Views

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

- There are distant views to the south east from within the character area, particularly from higher ground on the western edge.
- Four PRoWs (1119, 1120, 1141 and 1142) cross the area from which there are open views across most of the character area. The sequential views along PRoW 1120 are the most diverse, passing Wheatmoor Farm, clumps of trees, the watercourse and Vesey Cottage.
- There are views across different parts of the area from each of the three roads that cross east-west: Fox Hill Road; Tamworth Road (A453); and, Withy Hill Road.
- From Weeford Road in the west, there are intermittent views of the area, over and between gaps in the roadside hedgerow.
- From Whitehouse Common Road (B4148), views are limited to the western edge of the area, due to falling topography, but there are distant views beyond to the south east. Views from traffic and residential properties on Lindridge Road are open and extend across the area above a low-lying roadside hedgerow.
- At the junction of Lindridge Road and Withy Hill Road there is an extended view beyond the roadside hedgerow across the landscape character area. This view contains a number of the characteristics of this area including the valley slopes, woodland clumps and field trees.
- There are filtered views, due to garden vegetation, from the Grade II* Listed Vesey Cottage. There are more open views from the Grade II Listed Wheatmoor Farmhouse and Fox Hill House. There are direct views across the south of the area from the residential property to the south of Withy Hill Road.
- There are filtered views into the outer parts of this area from PRoW 1142, Tamworth Road (A453) and Weeford Road.
- From Ashfurlong Hall there are enclosed views to the south due to surrounding vegetation and contained views to the north by brick outbuildings.



V7.4 View south towards Wheatmoor Farmhouse from Tamworth Road



V7.5 View west from Tamworth Road

LCA7: Wheatmoor Plateau Farmland and Valleyside

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be High. This is due to the rarity of the landscape within the wider area (as a result of heritage features, ancient woodland and isolated, mature field trees), its elevated tranquillity and the limited opportunity for replacement of a number of its components.

Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be High. This is due to the presence of a range of residential properties overlooking the area and the openness and variety of views across the area and beyond.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be High. This is due to any future development having the

potential to change the open nature and pattern of the character area, being potentially visible from a range of receptors including residential properties and PRoW's and changing the setting of a series of Listed buildings.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: There would be limited opportunities to mitigate visual impact options that could include tree or woodland block planting on upper slopes to contain views of any development. The setting of heritage assets and diversity / amenity along Withy Brook and PRoWs could be enhanced. Enhancement could include increased biodiversity along Withy Brook, the creation of a more accessible parkland type landscape and restoring the visual connection between Ashfurlong Hall and Wheatmoor Farmhouse.

LCA8: Lindridge Valley Farmland

Landscape Character and Views



The Lindridge Valley Farmland character area can be distinguished as a valley landscape with a wooded valley bottom. The eastern side contains the key, visible landscape components of woodland, naturalistic hedgerows, field pattern and mill ponds respond closely to the localised landform and have largely avoided being degraded through time in comparison to other character areas. The boundaries mark a clear change to the surrounding landscape that has been subject to alteration through agricultural management practices and incremental influence from the urban edge close to the west. The western side of the area is more closely associated with urban fringe land uses which are a mixture of arable, pasture, a cemetery and sports fields and development along Lindridge road that has wide, well maintained grass verges and pavement running along its entire length and occasional street lighting.

The western limit is marked by Lindridge Road whilst the southern limit is defined by the private road running east west giving access to the Lindridge and Langley Pools, a route also followed by PRoW 1121 that connects to the rural areas east of the M6 Toll Motorway. The west of the area has a lower sense of tranquility due to its proximity to the urban edge and much of the historic field pattern has been eroded through time where hedgerows and trees have been removed to make way for bigger, more rectilinear fields seen today.

Despite the introduction of the M6 Toll road corridor immediately to the east and the proximity to the Falcon Lodge residential area in the west, the east of the area has a sense of rural tranquility and detachment. This is enhanced east of the woodland and is especially reinforced on the south facing valley sides above the 17th Century Lindridge Pool and Langley Pools.

Discernible time depth of this character area is exhibited by the agri-industrial landscape components of Lindridge Pool and Langley Pools that exploit the valley created by Withy Brook and served as 16th Century mill ponds. Equally, remnants of older field patterns can be identified by positions of isolated mature trees that were once part of hedgerow boundaries. In the south west of the area, much of the historic field pattern has been eroded through time where hedgerows and trees have been removed to make way for bigger, more rectilinear fields seen today. Some field boundaries retain mature, well maintained hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees that obscure views into and out from the area. The pools and their association with the landscape can be experienced from PRoW 1121 as it passes the lowest pool at circa 100m AOD which then heads east across the M6 Toll and A38 serving as a locally important recreational link to countryside in the east near Langley Mill Farm.

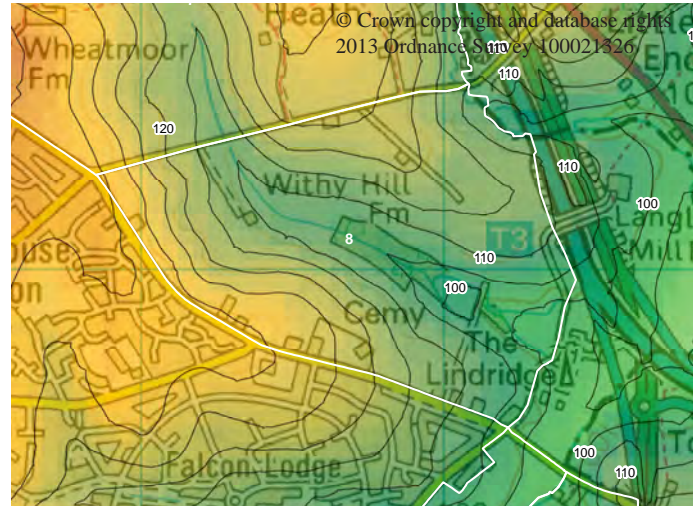
A primary biodiversity resource exists in the form of semi-natural ancient woodland that occupies the Withy Brook valley.

LCA8: Lindridge Valley Farmland

Landscape Character and Views



V8.1 View across Langley Pool



Topography of this and surrounding areas

Key Characteristics

- Valley landform with Withy Brook running through
- Sports pitches and cemetery along the southern boundary
- Block of ancient woodland and two 17th Century millponds in the valley bottom
- Hedgerows with hedgerow trees on the northern side

Key Views

- Distant views to the east from Withy Hill Road and Lindridge Road

Land Use: This area is mainly arable fields with a woodland block, water course and Lindridge Pool and Langley Pool to the south. Langley Brook runs along the south eastern boundary. There is a pasture to the south west of Withy Hill Farm. Withy Hill Road forms the northern boundary to this area. A private access road passes through the south eastern corner of this area adjacent to the M6 Toll Road. South west of the woodland block is a mixture of farmland, Sutton Newhall Cemetery and sports fields.

Pattern: To the north east, remnants of older field patterns are evident from the remaining isolated mature trees that were once part of hedgerow boundaries. Some fields have been amalgamated and hedgerows lost. The pattern of the woodlands and ponds responds to the land form and natural gradient and has remained much the same for over a hundred years. To the south west, more hedgerows and trees have been removed to make way for bigger, more rectilinear fields.

Transport and Access: PRow1121 which runs across the south east of the area and provides access across the M6 Toll and A38 to Langley Mill Farm. Withy Hill Road runs along the northern boundary, and is a straight country road with no pavement or lighting, there are regular access points off Withy Hill Road for farm access to surrounding fields. The eastern boundary borders with the M6 Toll but no access is available. The southern boundary edge to this character area runs along Lindridge Road which is well maintained and contains pavement and lighting along the parts adjacent to residential buildings. The crematorium and sports pitches are accessible for specific uses and there are a couple of private access tracks extending into the area from Lindridge Road.

Topography: The area is a valley landform in which evenly graded contours create the lower slopes. A rounded 'shoulder' of higher ground at circa 130m is located in the north of the area. Another area of higher ground is located along the north western edge. Withy Brook has cut a relatively narrow

LCA8: Lindridge Valley Farmland

Landscape Character and Views

stream valley profile. The lowest contour is 95m at the southern limit of the area with the highest at 135m in the north west.

Vegetation: A woodland belt is a feature through the centre of the area and surrounding the two water bodies in the south, Lindridge Pool and Langley Pool. Within the character area, the vegetation consists of mature, medium sized hedgerow boundaries to fields with scattered hedgerow trees. There is a dispersed pattern of isolated trees throughout. Road boundaries comprise mature naturalistic hedgerows that obscure views in and out from the area.

Rivers and Drainage: Withy Brook is the main watercourse draining this character area that flows in a south easterly direction. Lindridge and Langley Pools (actually man-made mill ponds) are two water bodies that are visually distinct components in the landscape. They were created by dams introduced across the valley course.



V8.2 View south east along Lindridge Road



V8.3 View east from Wither Hill Road

Heritage: The visible heritage assets within the area include:

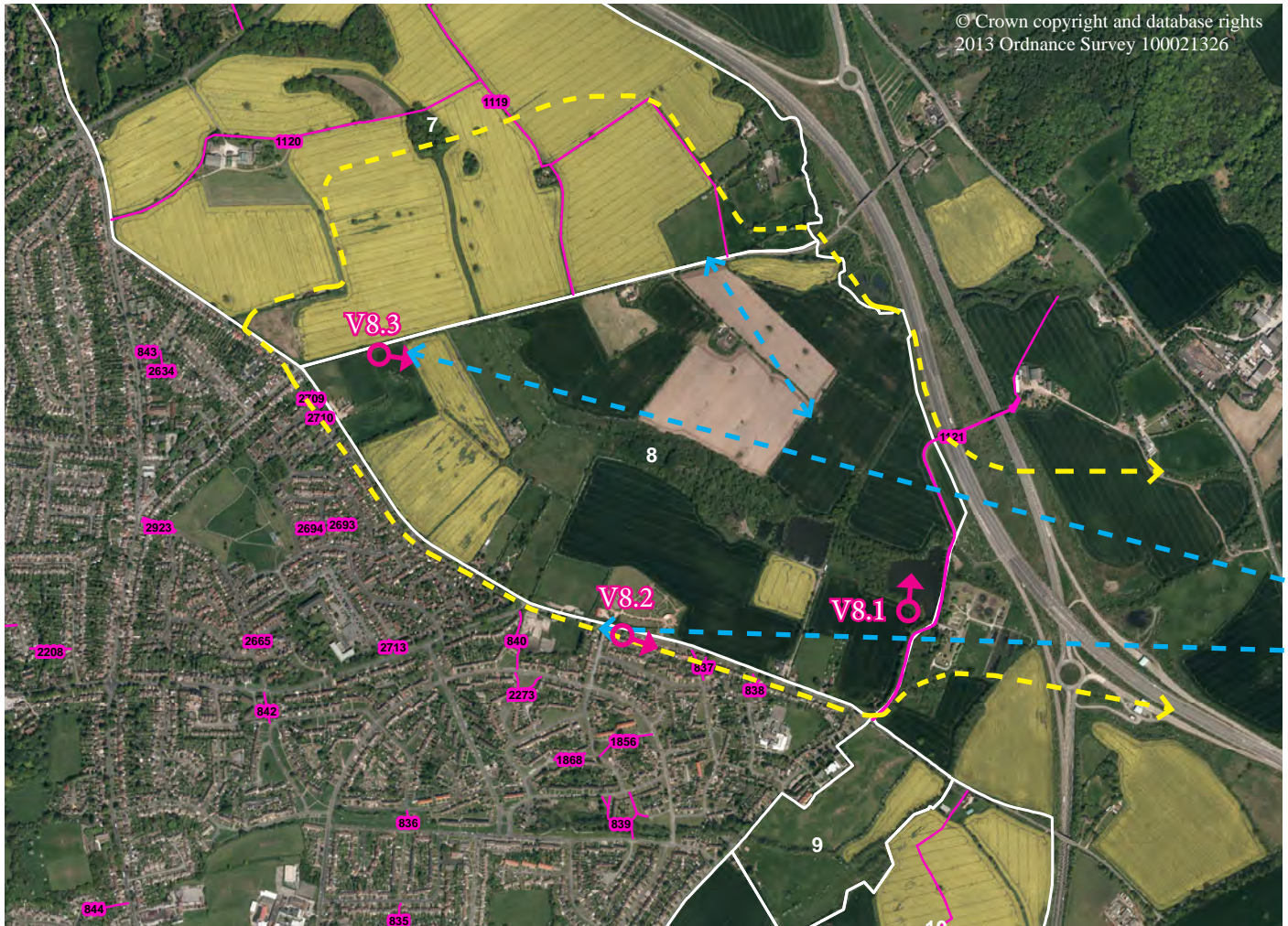
- Along the middle of the area is a 4ha semi-natural ancient woodland, 1ha has been classified as plantation. To the south east of this woodland are two millponds, that were part of the Langley corn watermill, dating from 1540AD.
- To the north west of PRoW 1121 there are two patches of ridge and furrow running north-south, each approximately 0.5m wide.

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

- There are views across the eastern side of the area, the Langley Pool mill pond and the ancient woodland from PRoW1121.
- There are views of the north of the area from Wither Hill Farm and the rear of the residential property on Wither Hill Road. From traffic on Wither Hill Road views are filtered by vegetation with more open views limited to gaps in the roadside hedgerow.
- There are distant views to the east across the area from Wither Hill Road
- Within Sutton Newall Cemetery, external views are filtered to some degree by boundary and internal vegetation.
- Views from the sports pitches to the west of the cemetery extend beyond the boundary hedgerows to the north and west. The hedgerow along Lindridge Road filters views to some degree.
- Views from residential properties along Lindridge Road are towards the roadside hedge with clear views of the character area beyond from upper storeys.
- There are extended views south east towards rising agricultural land, the A446 London Road and four transmitter masts.
- Views from the west to the east of the area are contained by the block of vegetation along Wither Brook.

LCA8: Lindridge Valley Farmland

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. The sensitivity is judged to be locally elevated east of, and including, the woodland and pools as a result of the rarity of the landscape type within the area and the limited opportunity for replacement due to topographic and historic features. To the south west of the area, alongside Lindridge Road, the sensitivity is judged to be locally reduced due to a local abundance of the more urban typology and potential to replicate elsewhere.

Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to a balance between the distant views from the area to the east and the limited number of views into the area from elsewhere. In the west there are middle to long distance views to the east and the area is used for sports and visitors to the cemetery.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the effects that development would have on land cover, potentially resulting in the loss of a number of components, balanced by the opportunities to mitigate visual impact. There is judged to be reduced sensitivity to the south west due to development potentially being able to be accommodated across the area without the loss of many landscape components accompanied by the scope for appropriate forms of mitigation.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Enhancement could include management of the woodland and increased accessibility through the area accompanied by the reinstatement of the 19th Century field boundaries. Mitigation could take the form of woodland blocks or screen planting, the retention of distant views to the east, hedgerow tree planting along the south western boundary and the retention of views to the east in any proposed development layout.

LCA9: Langley Brook Lowlands

Landscape Character and Views



This character area is defined mainly by its low lying nature that is almost flat, and distinguished by the broad valley created by Langley Brook. The land lies entirely below 110m occupying the broad valley floor of Langley Brook.

Langley Brook flows in a south west to north east direction and has a single confluence with Churchill Brook that joins the main watercourse from the north west. The watercourse is picked out in the landscape by the line of riparian vegetation that threads through the river valley although the channel itself is relatively inconspicuous.

The area is overlooked from the north west by residential properties located just outside the boundary of the area.

Key Characteristics

- Small scale pastoral field
- Low lying with small watercourses

Key Views

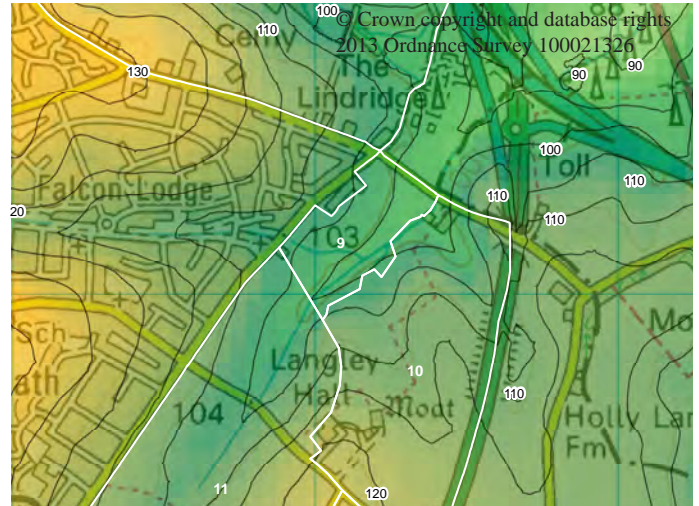
- Views into the area from adjacent residential property
- Glimpsed views through boundary vegetation

LCA9: Langley Brook Lowlands

Landscape Character and Views



V9.1 View along north eastern boundary hedgerow



Topography of this and surrounding areas

Land Use: The land use of this area is a pastoral field that contains horses. Langley Brook runs through the centre of the area

Pattern: The pattern of this area is derived from the internal hedgerow in the east of the area and the area is split by the small watercourses running through it.

Transport and Access: The area is bounded on two sides by road corridors, Springfield Road to the north west and Lindridge Road to the north east. There is no public access into the area itself.

Topography: The topography of this character area has few undulations but is gently rolling and relatively low lying with an east facing aspect. The highest point is 105m in the west and the lowest point being 100m in the east.

Vegetation: The area is contained on all sides by a high naturalistic hedgerow. The hedgerow has few gaps with one noticeable exception being at the junction of Lindridge Road and Springfield Road. Another naturalistic hedgerow is located within the area itself north west of, and parallel to, Langley Brook.

LCA9: Langley Brook Lowlands Landscape Character and Views

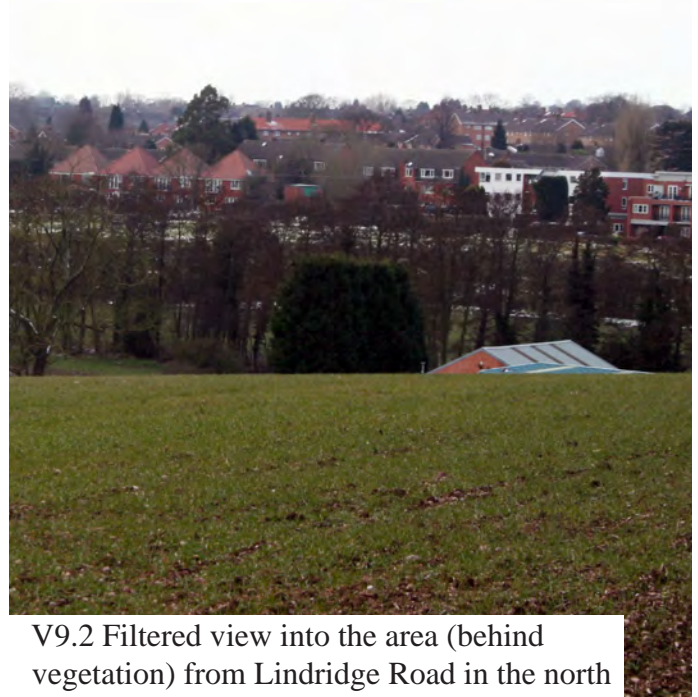
Rivers and Drainage: Langley Brook flows in a south west to north east direction across the area and has a single confluence with Churchill Brook that joins the main watercourse from the east.

Heritage: The visible heritage assets within the area include:

- To the south of the area, there are two parallel linear earthworks, interpreted as a probable dam associated with site of Brockhurst watermill.

Views: From within and around the character area there are the following distinct views:

- There are direct views into the character area from a number of residential properties to the east side of Springfield Road with filtered views into the area from properties on the west side.
- Views from Lindridge Road and Springfield road are limited to locations where there are gaps in the boundary vegetation.
- There are filtered views across LCA10 towards the area from Lindridge Road and PRow1122.



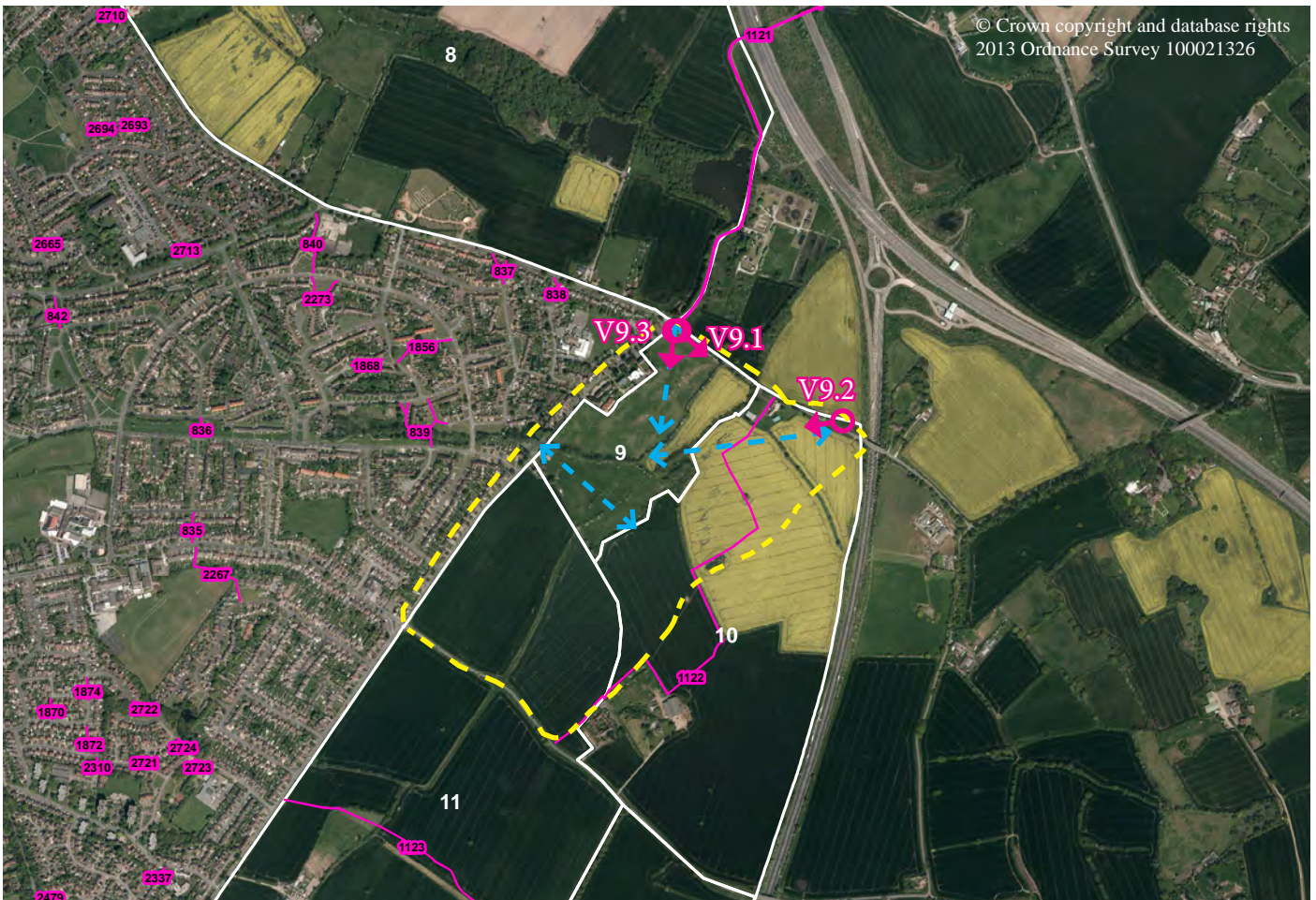
V9.2 Filtered view into the area (behind vegetation) from Lindridge Road in the north



V9.3 View south from the northern corner of the area

LCA9: Langley Brook Lowlands

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Relative Sensitivity to Development



Landscape Sensitivity: The landscape sensitivity of this area is judged to be Low. This is due to the presence of other examples of this character type within the wider landscape. The hedgerows are fragmented and in poor condition.

Visual Sensitivity: The visual sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the opportunities for visual mitigation and the limited number of visual receptors. The availability of distant views to the north west is rare within the wider area.

Relative Sensitivity to Development: The relative sensitivity of this area is judged to be Medium. This is due to the rarity of the extensive view to the north west and the prominence of the hillside, balanced against the opportunities for appropriate forms of mitigation and the limited number of visual receptors.

Enhancement / Mitigation Options: Enhancement of the existing hedgerows and hedgerow tree planting will help to strengthen and further define and restore the arable field pattern. This will also bolster wildlife movement corridors. Enhancement of the isolated water body in north east of the character area will help to increase the biodiversity of the area. The water body already links well with surrounding woodland and the connecting hedgerows and such an asset can also be enhanced. Proposed development could be mitigated through careful visual screen planting along the boundaries with consideration given to the sloping topography and localised landform variations.

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